

Message Text

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66/43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

DPW-01 AID-20 IO-13 EUR-25 SSO-00 NSCE-00 RSR-01 /139 W

----- 121619

R 180915 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3373

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10924

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - T E X T

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, VS

SUBJECT: MR 3 OFFICIALS QUESTION EFFICACY OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE

FOLLOWING MSG REC FROM AMCONSUL BIEN HOA ON JUN 17 ACTION EMBASSY
SAIGON INFO DANANG NHA TRANG VIENTIANE PHNOM PENH BANGKOK
OTTAWA JAKARTA BUDAPEST WARSAW REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 0208

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT VS

SUBJ: MR 3 OFFICIALS QUESTION EFFICACY OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE

REF: SAIGON 10795

1. MR3 GVN SOURCES APPEAR TO BE UNANIMOUS IN THEIR FEELINGS
ABOUT THE HAK/ THO COMMUNIQUE. THE ONES WE HAVE TALKED TO IN
THE LAST THREE DAYS ARE NOT SANGUINE THAT THIS ALONE WILL
BRING PEACE TO THIS TROUBLED LAND. MOST OF THEM SEE IT AS
A VEHICLE FOR THE COMMUNISTS TO GET A FOOTHOLD IN THE ADMINIS-
TRATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS OF THIS COUNTRY. ONE SOURCE
TOLD US THAT " WE" HAVE OPENED THE DOOR WIDE IN THIS RESPECT
AND THAT THE COMMUNISTS WILL NOT MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO WALK
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RIGHT IN.

2. MILITARY COMMANDERS, THOUGH PREPARED TO FOLLOW THE LEADERSHIP OF SUPERIORS IN SAIGON, FORESEE A CONTINUATION OF THE STRUGGLE FOR SUPREMACY ON THE BATTLEFIELD. THEY SAY THAT IT IS FOLLY TO TRUST THE COMMUNISTS. THEY RECOUNT PAST EXPERIENCES WITH THE COMMUNISTS (LAND GRABS OF LAST OCTOBER AND JANUARY OF THIS YEACAL TO MAKE THE POINT. ONE COMMANDER, BG LE VAN TU, CG 25 TH ARVN DIVISION, IS FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS A " VICTORY" FOR THE COMMUNISTS AND THAT THE AMERICANS " COERCED" GVN OFFICIALS INTO ACCEPTING AN AGREEMENT WHICH WAS NOT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF HIS COUNTRY.

3. MR 3 CG LTG NGUYEN VAN MINH IS NOT TERRIBLY EXCITED ABOUT THE TERMS OF THE COMMUNIQUE EITHER. ALTHOUGH HE TOLD THE CONGEN THAT HE PERSONALLY FAVORS THE USE OF WORDS RATHER THAN BULLETS TO SETTLE DIFFERENCES, HE BELIEVES THAT THE COMMUNIQUE PROVIDES FOR AN ENDLESS DEBATE OVER INTERPRETATIONS OF INTENT AND LITTLE ELSE. HE WAS MOST CRITICAL OF THE SECTION PROVIDING FOR A RETURN TO THE JANUARY 28 TERRITORIAL STATUS QUO. MINH SAID THAT THE COMMUNISTS WILL CLAIM, AND RIGHTFULLY SO UNLESS THERE WAS AN UNDERSTANDING IN PARIS TO THE CONTRARY, THAT THE HAMLETS THEY OCCUPIED ON JANUARY 28 SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS PART OF THEIR ZONE OF CONTROL. HE WONDERED ALOUD WHY THIS PARTICULAR POINT WAS NOT CLARIFIED TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE COMMUNIST LAND GRAB OF JANUARY 27 AND THE FACT THAT SOME OF THE HAMLETS WERE NOT RETAKEN BY THE GVN FORCES UNTIL FEBRUARY 6.

4. MINH ALSO QUESTIONED FAILURE OF THE COMMUNIQUE TO SET DATE FOR NATIONAL ELECTION. HE SUGGESTED THAT ABSENCE OF TIMETABLE IS BENEFICIAL ONLY TO THE COMMUNISTS, IN THAT IT BUYS THEM TIME TO PROPAGANDIZE AND MAKE TROUBLE FOR GOVERNMENT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. MINH SAID THAT IF THIS MATTER IS DEPENDENT UPON AGREEMENT BY PARTIES OF NCRC, POLITICAL STABILITY IS LONG WAY OFF.; HE SAID THAT HE EXPECTS THE COMMUNISTS TO USE SECTION ON ELECTIONS TO FRUSTRATE GVN PLANS FOR SENATE ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST. HE OPINED THAT COMMUNISTS WOULD REFER TO EFFECTIVE DATE OF COMMUNIQUE TO SUPPORT ARGUMENT THAT ALL ELECTIONS FOLLOWING THIS DATE ARE LEGALL ONLY IF IN ACCORD WITH TERMS OF COMMUNIQUE.

5. FINALLY, MINH SAID THAT, REGARDLESS OF THE COMMUNIQUE, HE WILL
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NOT RPT NOT AGREE TO PARTITION MR 3 INTO POLITICAL UNITS. HE IS PREPARED TO SIT DOWN, HOWEVER, AND WORK OUT ZONES OF CONTROL PROVIDING ZONES RELATE TO MILITARY PRESENCE, NOT POLITICAL PRESENCE.
WALKINSHAW
WHITEHOUSE

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON10924
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730622/aaaajeuy.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <16-Oct-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980212
Subject: MR 3 OFFICIALS QUESTION EFFICACY OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE
TAGS: PINS, PINT
To: EA
JEC PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005